STREET HYPE

'Community Lifestyle Newspaper'

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Jamaican Wins 'The Voice'

Courtesy of Billboard.com
By Phil Gallo, Los Angeles

Jamaican singer Tessanne Chin sang landmark songs associated with the Beatles and Whitney Houston for her final performance on "The Voice" and walked away with the Season-Five crown.

New Jersey teenager Jacquie Lee came in second, journeyman musician Will Champlin was third in the voting.

Chin, who has worked with Jimmy Cliff, Third World and Ky-mani Marley, clearly clicked with audiences with her version of the Houston hit "I Have Nothing," which sat at No. 1 on the iTunes singles chart for hours. "Let It Be," which she sang with her coach Adam Levine, was at number three during the voting period.

"I never felt safe," Chin said after Monday's performance. "Not until last week."

Chin clearly saved her best for last. None of her recordings got onto the Billboard charts during the season though her rendition of Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" is poised to enter the Hot Digital Songs chart on Wednesday on sales of 60,000. Her biggest seller previously was her take on Cliff's "Many Rivers to Cross," which sold 24,000, according to SoundScan.

TESSANNE CHIN
Jamaican singer walked away with Season-Five crown "The Voice"

While Chin says she does not intend to make a reggae record, the style "will always be a part of what I do," she said after Monday's performances. "Maybe not in a direct sense, but my music will always have that (swagger). It's who I am. I think the key to making great music is to stay true to yourself so (the listener) can relate to that."

Continued on page 4

JOSEY WALES
Legendary Dancehall Artist

Josey Wales Returns to the US

Powerhouse Caribbean entertainment entity Irish and Chin has inked an exclusive management deal with the legendary Dancehall artist Josey Wales, "The Colonel," culminating with his epic return to the United States after a more than decade-long absence.

This is quite a milestone for both parties and a major move for the reggae-music industry as Wales has been in high demand for quite some time.

Through mass marketing and promotions, Irish and Chin's goal is to re-launch Josey Wales' career by creating multi-generational appeal for the artist and enabling him to have a strong presence in today's arena.

Continued on page 4

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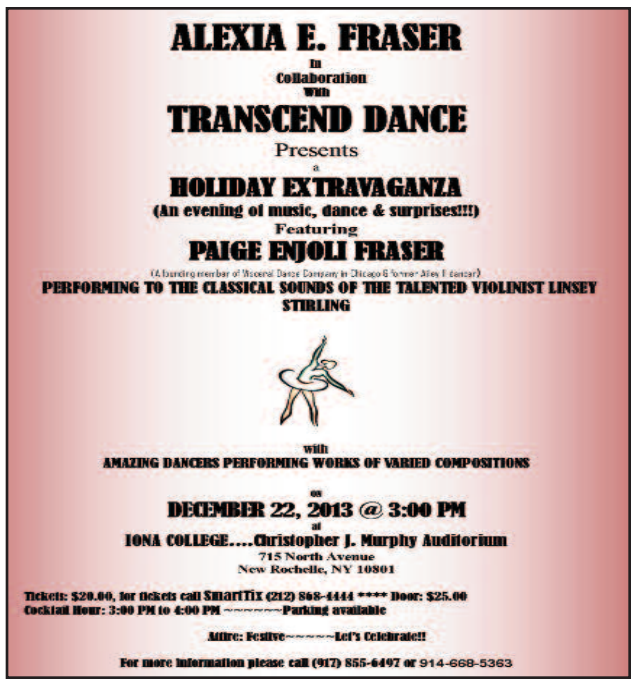
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Editorial

Hard work, dedication and commitment for 2014

As we approach the ending of the year 2013, most people are busy reflecting on the past while considering what to do for the New Year. Whereas a few people may be rejoicing about their successes, for the vast majority the year was filled with more challenges for both their business and personal undertakings.

Outgoing Mayor Mike Bloomberg has been praised for his overall management of the city including keeping the city's poverty rate at the same level (below 21 per cent) since 2000. In fact, data shows New York City is the only Top-20 city that did not experience an increase in its poverty rate since the 2000 U.S. Census.

The smoking ban, gun control, the overhauled city waterfront as well as changes in the city laws were among the so-called winners that enabled a third term for Bloomberg.

However, the city's low-income population that comprises of mainly African-American and Latino citizens continues to face hardships, particularly in the areas of housing and food.

As revealed in the Community Service Society's 2013 annual survey, the number of people skipping meals because there was not enough money to buy food increased from 21 to 27 percent. There was also an increase in the number of poor New Yorkers falling behind on their rent or mortgage payments – up from 24 per cent to 31 per cent. And 38 percent of low-income, working women report cuts in wages, tips or hours up from 28 percent a year ago.

African-American and Latino-owned businesses including restaurants, clubs and bars, hair salons are experiencing high failure rate.

We may attribute the failures to increased competition and a crappy economy, however in our evaluation, both City and State regulations are also the major contributing factors.

As we approach the new-year and welcome Mayor Bill de Blasio, this is a good time to review and fix the challenges affecting our personal endeavors and business pursuits.

We will be urging de Blasio during 2014 and his term in office to provide strong leadership and keep his promises of providing the environment for business to grow as well as improving the living stand of all New Yorkers.

Nonetheless, we may only guarantee personal success and prosperity, if we apply hard work, dedication and commitment to our endeavors.

patrick@streethype.net

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published

people are talking...!

Will Jamaican teachers get jobs in China?

I delayed writing this article for some time as I wanted to weigh in on a few articles that I read in the Jamaica Gleaner earlier this year. In one such article was titled, "Thwaites cements more partnerships with China," it was said that China needs a number of English teachers.

It also said the Jamaican government would like to fill some of those vacancies with teachers who are perhaps retired or are qualified but haven't been able to find jobs. Additionally, Jamaicans would have an opportunity to learn Mandarin.

I was excited reading about Jamaica's efforts to work with China to provide jobs for Jamaican teachers, and prompted by a friend I decided to contact the Ministry of Education in Jamaica. My friend said he informed Jamaican Education Minister Ronald Thwaites that I would be calling.

However, I was not able to speak with Mr. Thwaites. Instead, I spoke with one of his consultants. I explained to the consultant who I was and what I did. I explained to her the discrimination I faced while trying to place Jamaican teachers in China.

I informed her that I sought the Ministry's help in getting visas for Jamaican teachers to work in China. After five minutes of conversation I realized I was at a dead end. She informed me that the Jamaican government doesn't work with just anyone. She wanted to know how Jamaican teachers had found me.

She also told me that the deal they were working on with China was a solid one and the Chinese representative had been to Jamaica on many occasions. Additionally, she said, they had Chinese teachers already teaching Mandarin in Jamaica. She requested that I send her my business registration detail and I obliged her. It has been a few months and she has not sent confirmation that she received my email.

Dr Neva SPEAKS

With this current deal in place I am not sure why Chinese teachers are already in Jamaica teaching Mandarin and Jamaicans teachers are not in China teaching English.

I do hope that Jamaicans in general will get opportunities in China as China has a great presence in Jamaica. It is up to the leaders to assure that their people are equally represented and treated fairly.

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NEWS

Mount Vernon News

From the offices of
Ernest D. Davis, Mayor

Save on property tax bill

Don't overlook your opportunity to continue saving hundreds of dollars on your property tax bill. New York State is now requiring ALL property owners receiving Basic Star Exemption must reapply in order to receive future savings.

Senior Citizens receiving Enhanced STAR property tax exemption are not affected by this new requirement and do not need to register. To qualify for the Enhanced STAR you must be 65 years or older and the combined income of resident owners and their spouses must be $81,900 or less.

If you haven't re-registered, are having problems applying online or can't get through to the state, contact the Assessor's Office for assistance. Reach the office at 914-665-2325 or come in person to Room 8 on the ground floor of City Hall. Assessment staff can answer questions and quickly help you sign up directly with the New York State Tax Department.

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING IS DECEMBER 31

It's never too late to be fire safe

The holidays are a time for friends, loads of cheer and family get togethers. It's also thqt time of year when fire departments see a spike in calls for assistance. By following a few simple rules you and your family can stay safe this winter.

The Mount Vernon Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Prevention is available to help residents be fire safe. They can be consulted for advice and direction in eliminating fire and life safety hazards in buildings as well as keeping your living and work environments free from the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Remember, in the event of an immediate emergency, dial 911. Be prepared t give your name, the location of the emergency, your location, the nature of the emergency and how many people may be involved in the emergency.

JAMAICAN DOLLARS IN QUEENS RESTAURANT:

Jamaica Breeze, a popular New York City restaurant that first opened its doors in Queens about six months ago has made an unprecedented decision to allow customers the option to pay in Jamaican dollars. Owner/CEO Mike Duncan and his cashier display a Jamaican $50 note. The all-day eatery that specializes in classic, old fashioned Jamaican cuisine started accepting Jamaican dollars on December 9 and both the Jamaican clients as well as Duncan are excited about this pioneering new option that appears to be a first in New York City.

Josey Wales Returns to the US

Continued from page 1

To date, no other vintage Dancehall artist has consistently been marketed in such a manner.

Irish and Chin will be the machine behind an early 2014 US tour for Wales. "An expansion into managing a veteran artist was just a matter of time for us," says Garfield "Chin" Bourne. "I think that Josey Wales is the ideal artist to work with for many reasons, including his talent and unique position in the industry."

Irish and Chin executed an intense promotional and media run for Wales' heralded return earlier this month, which included special appearances at key dancehall events and high profile radio interviews. The company's primary goal was to reconnect Josey Wales with his US fan base and establish that the artist is able to perform. The well-spoken Wales won over radio hosts and listeners, often delving into his rich knowledge of the history of Reggae music and its inner-workings.

His interview on Dahved Levy's "Caribbean Fever" show on New York's leading radio station, WBLS 107.5 FM, alongside Bunji Garlin, was a highlight. Josey Wales is truly one of Reggae music's most influential artists, playing an integral role in the historical dancehall era. While he entertained the masses with hits like "Leggo Mi Hand" and "Outlaw," the iconic artist also played a major role behind the scenes in discovering talent and navigating through Jamaica's tricky political landscape.

Wales, whose birth name is Joseph Sterling, is highly revered by old and new members of the Reggae music fraternity. Over the years Irish and Chin has worked with scores of veteran artists through its "Reewind" brand.

Jamaican Wins 'The Voice'

Continued from page 1

Tuesday's finale included a Lady Gaga-Christina Aguilera duet and performances from One Republic, Celine Dion and previously eliminated performers from this season. The sixth season of the "The Voice," with Shakira and Usher replacing Cee-Lo Green and Aguilera, will premiere Feb. 24 and 25.

As a solo singer, Tessanne Chin is a relative newcomer to the music scene, although she has a wealth of experience in the Jamaican music industry. Before launching her solo career, Tessanne fronted the reggae-rock band "Mile High" and toured with Jimmy Cliff as a back-up singer for several years.

Tessanne comes from a rich musical background. Her mother and father (Christine and Richard) used to sing in "The Carnations" and her sister, Tami Chynn, is also a well-known recording artist. The family home even has its own recording studio!

Tessanne does not currently have a record deal but has released several singles, including Hideaway, which became very successful both in Jamaica and internationally. Her other singles include Guilty by Design, One Night Stand and Messenger.

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NEWS

Money Broker Admits Falsifying Promissory Notes

BERLIN, CONNECTICUT

Frank Mete, 55, Berlin, Connecticut, waived his right to indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez in Hartford to fraud and tax evasion offenses stemming from an investment fraud scheme.

According to court documents and statements made in court, from approximately 2009 to November 2012, Mete operated an investment fraud scheme in which he held himself out as a broker of hard money loans between investors and purported individual borrowers who were willing to borrow money at interest rates of 15 to 18 percent. In fact, there were no such borrowers.

In order to induce the investors to extend loans to the purported borrowers through him as the broker, Mete created false promissory notes, mortgage documents, and other false records using the names of the fictitious borrowers. After receiving from the victim investors checks that were made out to the purported borrowers, he forged the signatures on the checks and deposited the funds into several bank accounts he opened in the borrowers' names.

Through this scheme, Mete defrauded investors of approximately $1,191,610.50. He used the funds to pay for various personal expenses. Mete also failed to file federal income tax returns from 2009 to 2012, causing a tax loss to the government of approximately $357,324.

Harlem Street to be Renamed after Jazz Great

In photo, Mayor Michael Bloomberg prepares to sign bills renaming various local streets after community leaders. Included in the signing was a street to be renamed after longtime Bronx activist and president of Wakefield Taxpayers Association, Mary Lauro. She will live on with the co-naming of Matilda Avenue between East 236th and East 237th Streets. "We loved her in the North Bronx and I'm looking forward to us unveiling this street sign," said Council Member King.

Shoppers Worried About Personal Information at Target

A massive security breach at Target has shoppers worried about their personal Information

Target says it's fixed a problem that may have compromised credit and debit cards of tens of millions of its shoppers over the past three weeks.

It's a security breach so large, it's almost inconceivable. Target says 40 million credit and debit cards used in their stores from Nov. 27 through this past Sunday may have been compromised by hackers.

"It's really scary because you think these companies, they're supposed to keep your information safe. That's what they are supposed to do and then something like this happens and you're like, what's going to happen with people's money? They're not doing their job," said a shopper," said one shopper outside an East Harlem Target on Thursday.

Target says the hackers accessed not just shoppers' names and card numbers, but the expiration dates and all-important security codes. They may have tapped into the card scanners in Target stores since online shopping was unaffected.

Target says it notified the authorities as soon as it learned of the breach. The secret service says it's investigating. That's little comfort to shoppers who used their cards from Black Friday and throughout this holiday season.

"It's kinda scary. Somebody could access your information right now and you don't even know it," said a second shopper. "You can lose everything. One time, one shot, it take minutes to lose everything and that's very scary," said a third.

In a statement, Target's CEO said, "The privacy and protection of our guests' information is a matter we take very seriously and we have worked swiftly to resolve the incident … We began investigating the incident as soon as we learned of it."

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

Jamaican students on top in CAPE exams

KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

The Jamacan Ministry of Education said in addition to receiving the top overall award in the region, Jamaican students have placed first in 15 units in the 2013 sitting of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).

The country also placed in the top-ten ranking of all, except four, of the 46 units sat by candidates.

Jamaican students swept the top-ten positions in Food and Nutrition units one and two; and captured nine places in the Computer Science top-ten results.

In addition, Jamaica took seven of the top-ten places in Electrical and Electronic Technology, units one and two, as well as six of the top-ten positions in History unit one.

At a ceremony held recently in Guyana, the Caribbean Examination Council awarded Dea Thomas of Ardenne High School, as the Most Outstanding Candidate in the Caribbean in CAPE.

The Most Outstanding Candidate in Humanities in the region was awarded to Tasanique Henry of Hampton High School for achieving Grade 1 in eight CAPE units.

In the meantime, in analyzing the results for public schools, Senior Adviser to the Minister of Education, Radley Reid, said the average pass rates point to good overall performance by students.

However, Mr. Reid said, with a little more effort and focus, candidates can improve the quality of their grades; and Jamaica will gain more top-ten positions in CAPE.

The average pass rate in unit one was 88 per cent; and 90 per cent in unit two by public school students.

Mr. Reid disclosed that in unit one, the highest average pass rate of 96 per cent is in Geography, while the lowest average pass rate of 75 per cent applies to History, as well as Electrical and Electronic Technology.

For unit two, the highest average pass rate is 96 per cent in Biology, while the lowest is 70 per cent in Electrical and Electronic Technology.

As was reported on the weekend, Jamaican students also shone in the recent CSEC exams. According to the Caribbean Examination Council, out of 35 subjects, Jamaican students were on top in 13.

JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD HOSTS TOP SELLING TRAVEL AGENTS: Jamaica's Minister of Tourism & Entertainment Dr. Wykeham McNeill (r) presents top selling agent Ruth DeMuth of Tripguy Travel, MIlford, with her special award. Sharing the occasion is Mark McDermoth, Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) Business Development Manager-Midwest USA. JTBrecently rewarded its top selling Jamaica vacation travel agents with a three-night getaway that included tours, world-class dining, golfing, shopping and more. As part of JTB's A One Love Rewards, travel agent specialists program, the top 50 agents were flown to Jamaica and given the royal treatment at newly opened Royalton White Sands Resort.

T&T Woman Sentenced for Her Role in Kidnapping Scheme

A woman from Trinidad and Tobago was sentenced today to serve 20 years in prison for her role in the 2005 kidnapping of naturalized U.S. citizen Balram "Balo" Maharaj, announced Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and Special Agent in Charge Michael B. Steinbach of the FBI's Miami Field Office.

Doreen Alexander, 47, of Arima, Trinidad and Tobago, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan in the District of Columbia. Alexander pleaded guilty on Oct. 3, 2013, to conspiracy to commit hostage taking, a lesser included offense under count one of the indictment, which charged conspiracy to commit hostage taking that resulted in death. Judge Sullivan also sentenced Alexander to serve five years of supervised release to follow her prison term.

Alexander was the last charged co-conspirator involved in the kidnapping of Maharaj, Alexander's former boyfriend and the father of one of her sons.

The other 12 co-conspirators were previously extradited and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

According to court documents, Alexander initiated the April 2005 kidnapping of Maharaj and provided information that allowed the kidnappers to identify, locate and track Maharaj. Alexander alerted the kidnappers to Maharaj's visits to Trinidad and Tobago; gave them information on his wealth, which was used to calculate the ransom; and reassured the kidnappers that they had the right man after the ransom negotiations went awry. Maharaj died as a result of the kidnapping.

The case was investigated by the FBI's Miami Division Extraterritorial Squad with the assistance of the Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs and the FBI's Legal Attache's Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Special assistance was further provided by the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service Anti-Kidnapping Squad and Homicide Bureau.

Hotelier Ralph Taylor

Caribbean call to strengthen agro-tourism links

BARBADOS-

A Caribbean hotelier has issued a call for strengthening the hotel sector's ties to local food producers.

Such local linkages asserted Barbadian hotelier Ralph Taylor generate several benefits: "First, tourists want to savor the local delicacies. In fact, one of the most common complaints is the dearth of local dishes."

Taylor, owner of The SoCo Hotel on the picturesque south coast of Barbados, asserted the other reason was economic, "because you will have to pay a lot more to have your food imported from abroad. Besides, tourists do not want their dinners to come on the same flight as they did."

He went on to say the use of local food "also means we can employ more local recipes and hire more local people to cook the local delicacies. Make no mistake - genuine and attractive local food is one of the major attractions for all tourists"

Farm-to-fork programs stimulate the wealth creation of farmers, contends Taylor who launched a number of such programs throughout his hospitality career. He added such internal linkages "also drives down the operational cost of doing business by dramatically lowering food costs."

Guyana records highest ever gold declaration

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (GINA)-

Guyana has recorded the highest ever gold declaration of 458,105 ounces as at December 16, 2013 surpassing the previous highest level of 455, 918 ounces in 2001; which included the declarations of both Omai and small scale operators.

This announcement was made by the minister of natural resources and the environment, Robert M. Persaud. "This is a proud moment for all those who work in the sector. It shows dedication and commitment of the miners and also addresses the concerns about under declaration of gold or the claims of gold smuggling," said Persaud.

Persaud was advised by the Guyana Gold Board that, in 2011, gold declaration was just about 363,083 ounces, while in 2012, it increased to 438,645 ounces and as at December 16, 2013 declaration was 458,105 ounces. This, Persaud said, is expected to further increase within the new two weeks.

The minister added, "The continuous increase speaks of the commitment and conformity of the sector to the laws and regulations.

Haiti and Dominican Republic resume talks over migrant court ruling

By Joseph Guyler Delva

CARACAS, Venezuela (HCNN) -- The leaders of Haiti and the Dominican Republic agreed on Tuesday to set up a joint commission to discuss and find a final solution to the migration problem caused by a recent Dominican Constitutional court ruling, which has created tensions between the two Caribbean countries that share the island of Hispaniola.

Haitian president Martelly and his Dominican counterpart Danilo Medina met on Tuesday on the sidelines of a meeting of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our America (ALBA) and of PetoCaribe, in Caracas, Venezuela, under the auspices of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro.

The two leaders agreed to address, through a constructive dialogue, the issue of the denationalization of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian decent, among other issues. "I announce the creation of a high-level committee with representatives of both sides to address various issues on the bilateral agenda," Maduro said on Tuesday in Caracas where he welcomed heads of state, prime ministers and other representatives from different countries of the region that are part of ALBA and of the PetroCaribe oil agreement.

LEGAL ISSUES

Comptroller Seeks Marijuana Legalization

NEW YORK, NY

City Comptroller John C. Liu recently proposed regulating and taxing the sale of marijuana for personal use by adults in New York City.

In a report released today, the Comptroller's office argued that the change would curb the significant social damage caused by prohibiting the substance and generate more than $400 million annually for higher education

"New York City's misguided war on marijuana has failed, and its enforcement has damaged far too many lives, especially in minority communities," said Comptroller Liu . "It's time for us to implement a responsible alternative. Regulating marijuana will keep thousands of New Yorkers out of the criminal justice system, offer relief to those suffering from a wide range of painful medical conditions and make our streets safer by sapping the dangerous underground market that targets our children. As if that weren't enough, it would also boost our bot tom line."

Liu proposed that the City use the revenues generated by the regulation of marijuana to reduce CUNY tuition by as much as 50 percent for New York City residents. "In this way, we'll invest in young people's futures, instead of ruining them," he said.

"By regulating marijuana like alcohol, New York City can minimize teens' access to marijuana ,while at the same time reducing their exposure to more dangerous drugs and taking sales out of the hands of criminals."

Under Liu's proposal, adults age 21 and over could possess up to one ounce of marijuana, which would be grown, processed, and sold by government-licensed businesses for recreational or medicinal purposes. A strict driving under the influence enforcement policy would be implemented concurrently, and marijuana use in public would be prohibited.

To study issues related to regulation, Liu called for the creation of an interagency

City Comptroller John C. Liu

task force comprised of the NYPD, Administration for Children's Services, Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, District Attorneys, and Department of Consumer Affairs.

The task force would work with the New York State Senate and Assembly in order to pass the appropriate legislation authorizing the full implementation of the plan.

New York City's current market for marijuan a is estimated to be around $1.65 billion annually.

Basing its calculations on average consumption rates and the approximate number of users among New York City residents and commuters, the Comptroller's office estimated that taxing the sale of marijuana would generate approximately $400 million annually, of which roughly $69 million would go to the State and MTA in the form of higher sales taxes

The office calculated that the City could save another $31 million by reallocating time and resources expended by law enforcement and the judicial system on marijuana related arrests. It did not analyze other economic benefits, such as the reduction in associated incarceration, costs of those arrested, and potential tourist generated tax revenue.

But the social arguments for legalizing marijuana are even more compelling, the study found.

Because of stop and frisk minority communities disproportionately bear the consequences of marijuana arrests in New York City—especially the long term damage to opportunities for employment.

-

City to Ban E Cigarettes

The New York City Council voted last Thursday to add electronic cigarettes to the city's smoking ban.

The Council voted 43 to 8 to include e-cigarettes in the Smoke Free Air Act, which bans smoking in restaurants, bars, private office buildings, and some public places like beaches and parks.

The Council says that many e-cigarettes look just like the real thing and threaten to re-introduce smoking in places where it's not allowed, as well as send the wrong message to children.

Opponents of the ban argued that e-cigarettes are a way to help smokers kick the habit.

The Council also approved a measure that could lead to a ban on plastic foam in take-out food containers, pending the results of a year-long study into whether the material can be recycled effectively.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is expected to sign the legislation before his term wraps up at the end of the month.

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SPORTS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shillingford banned

Shillingford

West Indies spin bowler, Shane Shillingford, has been banned from bowling by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Shillingford's action was deemed illegal by the world governing body after he was reported for a suspect action during the recent tour of India. It's the second time he has been barred from bowling by the ICC, which had imposed a ban on him in 2010.

Shillingford will remain suspended until he submits a fresh analysis that proves his action has been corrected.

The Windward Island right-handed batsman has played 14 test matches and has taken 65 wickets at an average of 32.32. He's taken five wickets or more in an innings on six occasions and has two match hauls of ten wickets to his credit.

His West Indies team-mate Marlon Samuels has been barred from bowling his quicker delivery by the ICC.

Bravo Appointed Brand Ambassador

Global Twenty20 superstar and West Indies Cricket One-Day International captain, Dwayne Bravo, has become the first international cricketer to partner with one of the largest Chinese corporate entities in the world.

Bravo has been appointed as the sporting brand ambassador for the Billionaire Engineering, Construction and Consultancy giant, China Harbour which is estimated to be worth US$10 billion and has a substantial presence in the Caribbean.

The deal will see Bravo featured in exclusive ad campaigns and conducting personal appearances on behalf of China Harbor.

Send press release:
editor@streethype.net

Historic double award for Jamaican sprinters

By Caribbean News Now contributor

KINGSTON, Jamaica -- In an historic double victory, Jamaican sprinters Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce have captured the IAAF World Athletes of the Year. Jamaica became the first country in the region and the third in the world to capture the top IAAF accolade.

Bolt received the IAAF award for the fifth time, while Fraser-Pryce earned the award for the first time.

Bolt finished ahead of British runner Mo Farah and high jumper Bohdan Bondarenko of the Ukraine. The other women's nominees were world champion shot-putter Valerie Adams of New Zealand, and world hurdles champion Zuzana Hejnova of the Czech Republic.

Prime Minister and Minister of Sport Portia Simpson Miller said Jamaica is ecstatic at the accomplishment, which serves to further cement the island's top ranking and extraordinary position in the world of track and field athletics.

Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica pose after receiving their World Athlete of the Year awards during the IAAF World Athletics Gala in Monte Carlo. - Reuters pic, November 17, 2013.

"This is an outstanding and spectacular achievement which encapsulates the brilliance, depth and dominance of our athletes and serves to demonstrate once again that not only have we taken on the world in track and field athletics but we are succeeding at it," the prime minister said

"This latest accomplishment by Bolt and Fraser-Pryce can only serve to strengthen our already rich and vibrant history of success in the sport," she added.

Ian Goodison among six arrested in match fixing probe

Former Jamaica men's senior National defender Ian "Pepe" Goodison, is among six men arrested following allegations of match fixing football games in England.

The 41-year-old Tranmere Rovers defender who has made over 400 appearances for his club was arrested yesterday along with other teammates identified as 34-year-old Sam Sodje, along with his brother Akpo Sodje and 32-year-old Oldham striker DJ Campbell.

According to the National Crime Agency (NCA) it is probing spot-fixing involving Football League players being paid to get yellow and red cards. He represented Jamaica at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France.

Ian Goodison

Omar Daley

Reggae boy signs long-term contract with Minnesota

Courtesy of Jamaica Observer
BY SEAN A WILLIAMS

OMAR Daley's parting of ways with Scottish giant Motherwell, earlier this year may seem on the surface a dropped chance by the Jamaican midfielder to consolidate his position in the top flight. And when he decided to accept a loan offer from the fledgling North American Soccer League (NASL) outfit Minnesota United, it was indeed a comparative step down.

But having had a successful three-month loan spell in the US second-tier with Minnesota, Daley is on the fringe of stepping up his game with the Loons on a more permanent basis.

With his new long-term deal, the fleet-footed Jamaican winger is not only expected to play an integral part in the on-field business, but the club has asked him to play a leadership role as its ambassador.

And while there were a couple of "promising offers" on the table, the 32-year-old had already fallen in love with the club. So it was not difficult for owner Bill McGuire and coach Manny Lagos to convince the Jamaican to stay on for the long haul. "Originally when I went there, it was a three-month loan, but the club has received an injection of funds and they have asked me to stay on a more long-term basis," Daley said.

Camille C. Bent, Esq., completes 2013 ING NYC Marathon. Her first marathon, Bent completed the 26.2 mile race in 5 hours and 16 minutes. In conjunction with the marathon, Bent raised over $3,000 for Citymeals-on-Wheels, a non-profit organization that delivers meals to elderly home bound New Yorkers.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lady Mafia died

Street Hype undertands that American born rapper/reggae artist Kizzie 'Lady Mafia' Jones, 32 died in Jamaica WI recently as a result of a medical complication. Born Regina Dingle in Charleston, South Carolina and raised in Eadytown, South Carolina, the entertainer is survived by seven childen.

Real Jamaican laughter for New Yorker

New Yorkers will be treated to a night of Real Jamaican Laughter when the team of Ity & Fancy Cat and Blakka Ellis return to the Big Apple this holiday for one show only on Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Evander Childs Campus in the Bronx.

The Jamaican comedians are no strangers to the New York stage and have been entertaining fans throughout the New York tri-state area for many years.

The last time the team visited New York, patrons were left wanting more and this time should be no different.

Ity & Fancy Cat and Blakka Ellis who hail from one of Jamaica's innercity communities, Trench Town, have enjoyed tremendous success, wooing Jamaican & Caribbean audiences locally and internationally for over a decade. "We are eager to return to New York to entertain fans.

ITY & FANCY CAT

As we have demonstrated with the choice of our career, where you come from, doesn't determine where you go or become, having chosen a pathway to happiness through laughter, rather than embrace the culture of violence which pervaded our environment, noted the team.

According to Producers Horace and Victoria Mitchell, "We are continuing a tradition of providing wholesome family entertainment and are pleased to welcome the return of Ity & Fancy Cat and Blakka Ellis for this year-end holiday event. Patrons can expect an evening of real Jamaican laughter."

Tickets are $40 in advance and are available at Z-Spot Salon and Keeling Records in Brooklyn, VP Records in Queens, Sam's Caribbean Marketplace in Long Island, International Dimension in White Plains and in the Bronx, People's Choice Furniture and Dennis Shipping.

Tickets can also be purchased online at www.vickieeventplanner.com

Snoop Lion Joins Reggae Grammy Nominees

Snoop Lion

Jay-Z

Beres Hammond

Ziggy Marley

Sizzla

Sly & Robbie

Snoon Lion's debut reggae album, Reincarnated, was nominated for Best Reggae Album at the upcoming 56th Grammy Awards ceremony scheduled for January 26, 2014 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The Grammy nominations were announced last Friday during the Grammy concert at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

Jay-Z leads the nominees with nine nods.

Snoop Lion will be going up against other veterans in reggae such as Beres Hammond, Ziggy Marley, Sly & Robbie, and Sizzla.

This marks Sizzla Kalonji's first Grammy nomination for his critically acclaimed album, The Messiah.

Ziggy Marley already has four Grammy awards under his belt and is looking to add his fifth with a nomination for his Ziggy Marley In Concert album.

The rhythm twins, Sly & Robbie, got a nomination for their album Sly & Robbie and The Jam Masters.

Beres Hammond got his second Grammy nomination for his latest album One Love, One Life.

Snoop Lion (formerly known as Snoop Dogg) has the best selling reggae album this year with over 80,000 copies sold.

The artiste, known more for his rap repertoire, made a much publicized switch to rastafarianism and spent time in Jamaica, living in a rastafarian community and working on his new creations.

E-Dee on the go!

Everton E-Dee Dennis is an independent artist, who since his first official release in 2005 has reached the Jamaican Top Ten charts twice, and recently starred in a feature film loosely based on his life entitled "Out the Gate."

Dennis was born in Toll Gate in the Parish of Clarendon, Jamaica, the youngest of 12 children. His mother died when Everton was young. When he completed school, he traveled to Los Angeles to start his career in music and acting.

After studying music and acting at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood, E-Dee began recording with local producers releasing mixtapes, and started to book shows as his reputation grew. In 2004 The 6' 5" entertainer met platinum producer Qmillion and he signed with Unseen Lab Recordings.

Dennis's songs have been sought after by Hollywood appearing in the feature films "I Think I Love My Wife", "How She Move," "Like Mike 2: Streetball", and the television shows "Greek (TV Series)", Blue Bloods, "The Bad Girls Club" and "Glee"

Booking info qmillion@unseenlab.com
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www.facebook.com/edee.reggae
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Ole Farmers Fundraising Dance for Jan 4

The Ole Farmers Association North America, North East Region's Annual Holiday Fundraising Dance at the Marriott Stamford Hotel & Spa, 243 Tresser Blvd., Stamford, CT 06901 has been rescheduled for January 04, 2014.

Contact: Peterson Warburton,
warburton.peterson3@gmail.com
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Nelson Mandela's life and times

Nelson Mandela is one of the world's most revered statesmen, who led the struggle to replace the apartheid regime of South Africa with a multi-racial democracy. Jailed for 27 years, he emerged in 1990 to become the country's first black president four years later and to play a leading role in the drive for peace in other spheres of conflict. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

His charisma, self-deprecating sense of humour and lack of bitterness over his harsh treatment, as well as his amazing life story, partly explain his extraordinary global appeal.

In prison, you come face to face with time. There is nothing more terrifying"

Since stepping down as president in 1999, Mr Mandela has become South Africa's highest-profile ambassador, campaigning against HIV/Aids and helping to secure his country's right to host the 2010 football World Cup.

Mr Mandela - who has had a series of health problems in recent years - was also involved in peace negotiations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and other countries in Africa and elsewhere.

In 2004, at the age of 85, Mr Mandela retired from public life to spend more time with his family and friends and engage in "quiet reflection".

"Don't call me, I'll call you," he warned anyone thinking of inviting him to future engagements.

The former president has made few public appearances since largely retiring from public life. In November 2010, his office released photos of a meeting he had held with members of the US and South African football teams.

He has been treated in hospital several times in the past two years.

Nelson Mandela leaves court in 1958 during his first treason trial Mr Mandela set up South Africa's first black law firm with Oliver Tambo

In late January 2011 he was admitted to a Johannesburg hospital for "specialised tests" with the South African presidency reminding a concerned nation that Mr Mandela has had "previous respiratory infections".

While in jail on Robben Island in the 1980s, the former president contracted tuberculosis.

In early 2012 he was treated for what the president's office said was "a long-standing abdominal complaint".

But in recent months he has been troubled repeatedly by a lung infection.

Raised by royalty

He was born in 1918 into the Xhosa-speaking Thembu people in a small village in the eastern Cape of South Africa. In South Africa, he is often called by his clan name - "Madiba".

Born Rolihlahla Dalibhunga, he was given his English name, Nelson, by a teacher at his school.

Continue reading the main story

Mandela's key dates

His father, a counsellor to the Thembu royal family, died when Nelson Mandela was nine, and he was placed in the care of the acting regent of the Thembu people, chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo.

NELSON MANDELA
July 18,1918-December 5, 2013

In 1941, aged 23, he ran away from an arranged marriage and went to Johannesburg.

Two years later, he enrolled for a law degree at the mainly white Witswaterand University, where he met people from all races and backgrounds. He was exposed to liberal, radical and Africanist thought, as well as racism and discrimination, which fuelled his passion for politics.

The same year, he joined the African National Congress (ANC) and later co-founded the ANC Youth League.

He married his first wife, Evelyn Mase, in 1944. They were divorced in 1958 after having four children.

Mr Mandela qualified as a lawyer and in 1952 opened a law practice in Johannesburg with his partner, Oliver Tambo.

Together, Mr Mandela and Mr Tambo campaigned against apartheid, the system devised by the all-white National Party which oppressed the black majority.

In 1956, Mr Mandela was charged with high treason, along with 155 other activists, but the charges against him were dropped after a four-year trial.

Resistance to apartheid grew, mainly against the new Pass Laws, which dictated where black people were allowed to live and work.

Only free men can negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts"

In 1958, Mr Mandela married Winnie Madikizela, who was later to take an active role in the campaign to free her husband from prison. The ANC was outlawed in 1960 and Mr Mandela went underground.

Tension with the apartheid regime grew, and soared to new heights in 1960 when 69 black people were shot dead by police in the Sharpeville massacre.

Life sentence

This marked the end of peaceful resistance and Mr Mandela, already national vice-president of the ANC, launched a campaign of economic sabotage.

He was eventually arrested and charged with sabotage and attempting to violently overthrow the government.

Speaking from the dock in the Rivonia court room, Mr Mandela used the stand to convey his beliefs about democracy, freedom and equality.

"I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony and with equal opportunities," he said.

"It is an ideal for which I hope to live for and to see realised. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

In the winter of 1964 he was sentenced to life in prison. In the space of 12 months between 1968 and 1969, Mr Mandela's mother died and his eldest son was killed in a car crash but he was not allowed to attend the funerals.

Man holding newspaper on the day Nelson Mandela was set free Huge crowds greeted Nelson Mandela's release

He remained in prison on Robben Island for 18 years before being transferred to Pollsmoor Prison on the mainland in 1982.

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About the Author

Paula A Rattray-the author is an anointed servant of God and is very passionate about preaching the word of God in and out of season. She is an ordained minister of the gospel. She holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration, a Doctorate in Pastoral Ministry and a Graduate Certificate in Health Informatics from Columbia University.

Mount Vernon Golden Krust Give back to the Community

By Patrick Maitland
Editor-Street Hype

The franchise operators, management and staff of the Mount Vernon Golden Krust Bakery & Grill shop at 67 S 4th Avenue, Mount Vernon continue its community services on Thanksgiving Day- November 28.

The franchise offered free meals to an estimated 550 neighbors and customers who visited the store on Thanksgiving Day.

Meals consisting of turkey and of course, the chains' signature jerk chicken, oxtail, rice and peas, patties and cake were served up in fine style to several disadvantaged groups.

GK franchisee Sandra Bryan explains that the project started twelve years ago to serve homeless and needy persons in her community, however just about anybody who want a on that day meal is served free of cost.

"This is among our ways of supporting and giving-back and say thanks to the community. We always look forward every thanksgiving to feed as many people as possible," Bryan says.

Patrons enjoying Golden Krust patties

Golden Krust staff: Kenneth Bryan (1st l) chef/co-owner, Evan, Carene, Leah, Krysta and Jody and Sandra Pitter Bryan (10th l) CEO/co-owner

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What People say about Christmas

Christmas time is here again. Members of various communities participate in the religious, secular and cultural celebrations of the holiday, Christians and non-Christians alike.

Street Hype Newspaper interviewed some residents of New York to find out what Christmas means to them.

Some agreed that Christmas is a time of togetherness while others have very little or nothing to do with the holiday. Here is what Christmas means to some New Yorkers...

Christmas day or December 25th has been a U.S. national holiday since 1870. Christians celebrate December 25th as the date of Jesus' birth although no one is certain of the exact date of his birth. Many traditions related to Christmas developed separately from remembering Jesus' birth. Some components have origins in pre-Christian festivals that were celebrated around the winter solstice by pagans who later became Christians

I don't really celebrate Christmas. I forgot what Christmas feels like. ---Ky-enie (musical entertainer)

Christmas means the birth of Jesus and eating good food. It also means driving through the snow to get to work. Vance Garvey (Boxer)

Christmas to me is a time of giving. ---Marcia Campbell

For me Christmas is the "F" word; Family, fun and food- the more the merrier.--Patrick Buddington

Christmas is a time to pass on the true meaning of Christmas, which is about Jesus Christ, on to the next generation.---Alma Campbell

It is about caring and sharing with friends and family. -- Carol Burke, Master Stylist

Christmas is a time to take a break from all the stress that has built up over the year. It is also a time to relax and give God thanks for all the great times that have passed. -Teddy (Barber)

Christmas for me represents family. It's the day in which we show appreciation to our family and spoil each other with gifts. ---Diana Cordero (CUNY student)

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We wish all our readers, customers and friends a merry christmas and a happy New Year

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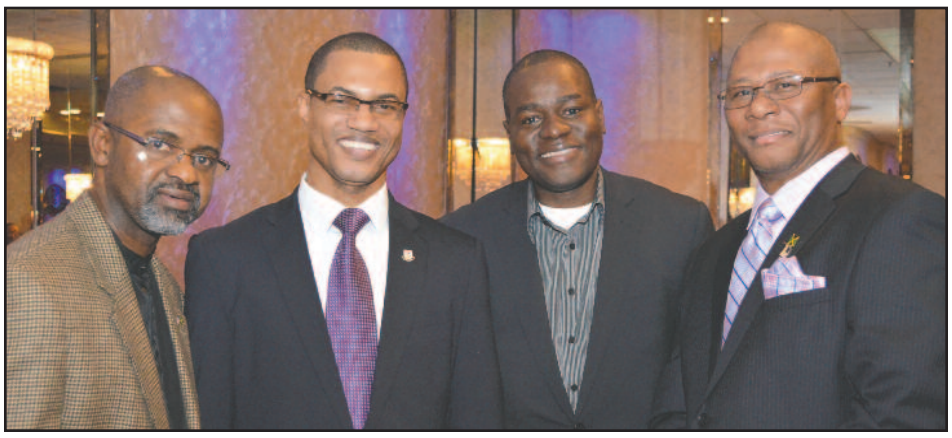

DINNER DANCE: Derrick Jones, president Jamaica Ex-Police Association (4th l) raps with (l-r) irwin Clair, director, Jamaican Diaspora Board; Derron McCreath, Jamaican deputy consulate general and Floyd williams - Jamaican consulate officer at the Association's anniversary dinner and dance held on December 7, 2013 at Eastwood Manor, Bronx.

Patriece Miller of Patrice Miller Funeral Services accepts an award from Ray Lawrence, PR Officer, Jamaica Ex-Police Association.

Elizabeth Gill, president of the 47th Precinct Community Council.

Business talk (l-r) Divine Diva, Street Hype's writer/radio personality; Nicky Chin, World Ventures; Dave Rhymes, Organogold Coffee and Paula Fennell, World Ventures at a recent business opportunity meeting held at Street Hype offices, Mount Vernon.

STREET RENAMED: Council Member Andy King (r) congratulates Vincent Wilburn Jr., the nephew and drummer of the late Miles Davis, who flew in from Los Angeles on Tuesday to witness Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg sign a bill officially renaming West 77th Street between Riverside Drive and West End Avenue as "Miles Davis Way."

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THE MATH CLUB News

10th ANNIVERSARY

JEFREY BLAKE
President, The Math Club Inc

In Tribute to Nelson Mandela

On Saturday, January 10, 2009 The Math Club staged its fifth Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Math Competition. On that day The Math Club launched its first and only Read-A-Thon.

Initially, the Read-A-Thon was advertised for high school students, however, the response was very poor. We therefore shifted the focus of the Read-A-Thon to sixth graders and as a result we had a better response from the sixth graders.

The children had to read a book then come in and took a comprehension style exam. The book that was chosen was "Long Walk To Freedom," highlighted Nelson Mandela's life from his humble beginning to his rise to greatness.

We had a very successful Read-A-Thon in substance, not in number of participants. However, the Read-A-Thon played a role (maybe a small one) in exposing the book to the children and other members of our community.

At the minimum those children who participated learnt some things about Nelson Mandela they might have never learn in a lifetime. Now that Nelson Mandela has left us physically, we are prompted by the loss to show recognition for his life in any way we can.

Several world leaders who recently converged in South Africa spoke eloquently of Mandela's contribution to the betterment of the human race.

Mandela said, "Poverty is not an accident, like slavery and apartheid; it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings." As a solution, Mandela made it clear that "Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world."

Mandela went on to say, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

We owe it to our community and children to live a life that highlights the statement that says I will do everything in my power to make the planet a better place than I found it. This is the foundation that The Math Club is built on.

We are trying to offer incentives to children to perform to the best of their potential in school, especially in mathematics. If we do a good job we will be able to redirect the efforts of our boys and girls from negative actions to positive actions that will create men and women that will build the society we all want to live in.

We need volunteers to monitor exams, mark papers, and serve lunches. The competition will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Richard Green School, Bronx.

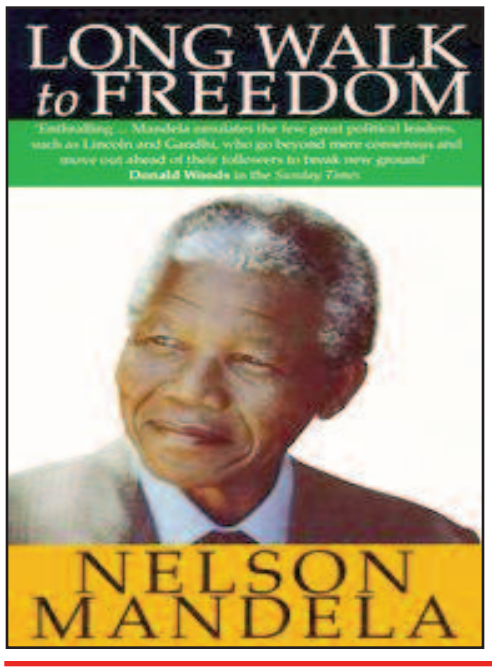
Please call 914 522 2673, or email jefrey.themathclub@gmail.com for more information.

The Math Club first top ten winners in 2004

Mr. James Alston presents an award to student Alex Lui at a Math Club award ceremony.

Two students in deep concentration while participating in the Math Club exam in 2004.

Students from Jamaica at a Math Club Jamaica's training forum helpd at the Seaview Gardens Early Childhood Centre, Kingston, Jamaica.



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Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968.

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than a sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." — Martin Luther King

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Math Competition was introduced to provide incentives to students by offering a desktop computer for the top seventh grader in the competition.

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BEAUTY CARE

Winter Hair Care Tips

Different seasons require different hair care techniques to maintain healthy hair. While you might wear your hair out much more often in the summer and rely on carefree styles when it's warm outside, your hair care routine will change during winter if you want to maintain healthy locks.

Here are some winter hair care tips that will keep your tresses in great shape so that when spring rolls around, your hair will be ready to face warm weather in good health.

Beware Breakage

If you experience breakage in one or two specific areas of your hair, it might have nothing to do with how you care for it, but what you wear on it.

Wool hats and scarves can rub against and pull on delicate black hair, breaking it off at the nape of your neck (where the scarf might sit) or at the crown of your head.

You need a hat and scarf if you live in a snowy climate, but the trick is wearing them the right way to avoid damage. Try sewing a satin or silk lining inside your wool cap. If you're not crafty enough to do this, ask a friend or family member who is.

Before wrapping that wool scarf around your neck, make sure your hair is out of the way, either through a protective style or already secured beneath your properly lined hat.

Deep Condition More Often

Heated homes and work spaces can dry out your hair, so combat this dryness with extra deep conditioning. Look for products which hold in moisture and use a good deep conditioner about once a week. As for humectants (touted for helping your hair to hold onto moisture), they are not all created equally. While glycerin is a popular ingredient for adding moisture, its intense water-binding properties will have the opposite effect in winter weather. Sticking to natural oils is a better bet for holding in the moisture that you get from water.

Wet Less Often

It's no fun leaving the house on a frosty morning with wet or damp hair. If you live in a freezing climate, your hair may actually freeze and break if you step outside with wet hair. Even if a wash n' go was your go-to style in the spring and summer, winter requires less shampooing and daily wetting. You should still shampoo and condition about once a week, but since you aren't swimming often, you don't need to wet and/or conditioner wash as much.

Use Heat Even Less

Indoor heating is going to suck some of the moisture from your hair. Don't help it along with flat irons, blow dryers and curling irons. Winter is an ideal season to practice setting techniques like wet sets (completely dry before you head out the door), pin curls and wraps, none of which require heat to style your hair.

Rethink Protective Styling

While wearing protective styles is always a good idea for keeping hair ends up and out of the way, they work especially well in winter for protecting your hair from harsh weather. Snow, sleet and heat won't be able to damage your hair as much when you keep it styled in buns, topknots, braids, twists and French rolls.

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NEW JERSEY FOCUS

New Jersey Tax Man Faces Lawsuit

The United States filed a lawsuit last week in The District of New Jersey to bar Eric Majette of Somerville, N.J., from preparing federal tax returns, the Justice Department announced.

As alleged in the complaint, Majette owned and operated a tax preparation business named "Berrisford Group" with offices in Plainfield and Somerville.

According to the complaint, from 2006 until 2011, Majette prepared and filed tax returns that contained false or inflated itemized deductions for items such as medical and dental expenses, gifts, and business expenses that resulted in his customers receiving larger tax refunds than they were entitled.

The complaint further alleges that Majette encouraged his customers to submit false documents, such as fraudulent charitable contribution receipts, to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Earlier this year, Majette pleaded guilty to corruptly endeavoring to obstruct and impede the internal revenue laws and to preparing a false tax return. He was sentenced to serve 30 months in prison and one year of supervised probation upon release, and ordered to pay $123,440 in restitution. The civil complaint filed yesterday alleges that between 2009 and 2012, Majette prepared 1,853 tax returns for customers and 93 percent of these returns claimed tax refunds. According the complaint, the IRS examined 428 of these returns and determined that they understated the customers' correct tax liability by a total of $838,837, an average of $1,960 per return. The complaint estimates that the total harm caused by the 1,723 tax refunds claiming returns could be as much as $3 million.

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Garnet Silk remembered

Jamaican-born Reggae star Garnet Damion "Garnet Silk" Smith was born on April 2,1966 and died tragically along with his mother at their home in St Ann on December 9, 1994.

After 19 years his fans and family members remembered Garnet, who died while attempting to save his mother from a fire.

Silk's musical career began at the age of 12, when he performed under the name Little Bimbo. During the 1980s he worked as a deejay on sound systems like Conquering Lion, Soul Remembrance, Pepper's Disco, Stereophonic, and Destiny Outernational.

He recorded his first track in 1985, but it would be two years later before his first single, "Problem Everywhere" was released.

Remember Celebrity Sunday

Remember to check out "Celebrity Sunday" at the Holiday Inn Saddle Brook NJ each and every Sunday with a difference DJ each week. Also, visit "Grown and Sexy Sundays" at the Quest Lounge in Paterson NJ and "Wet Wet Sunday" at Club Eclipse Newark, NJ. Remember the Radio stations that inform educate and entertain you in NJ: Rewind 90.9 FM; Road block 90.1 FM; Big link 97.5 FM WBLR and Vibes link 96.1 FM

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Tax Forum

Get Ready-It's Tax Season!

By Calvin W. Goings

After settling down after the busy holiday season, another season will soon be here - tax season! As a small business owner, it is important to understand how taxes will affect your business, how to file properly, avoid audits and claim the right tax deductions.

Here are 5 tips to ease the burden of tax preparation and help in preparation for the April 15, 2014 deadline.

1. Keep Good Records and Understand Available Deductions - Proper record-keeping year-round is the first step to ensure taxes are filed accurately. Save essential paperwork that could be needed to back-up deduction claims, should there be an audit. Keep it in mind that tax credits and deductions change each year.

2. Utilize the Small Business Jobs Act Tax Provisions - The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, signed into law by President Obama, has over 17 tax provisions to decrease tax burdens for small businesses—several of these provisions can be taken advantage of during this year's tax season. Utilizing these provisions could provide great savings for your business.

3. Remember the tax credits within the Affordable Care Act - These tax credits will allow small businesses to cover up to 35 percent of the health care premiums a small business pays to cover its workers. In 2014, the tax credit will increase to 50 percent.

4. Avoid Common Audit Traps - It is very important to be aware of potential red flags which could include:

•Classifying Employees as Independent Contractors–Independent contractors and employees are not the same and it is important to understand the difference. In the eyes of the IRS, misclassification can be seen as an attempt to avoid payroll taxes; non-compliance can bring penalties and back taxes.

•Home Office Deduction – This deduction is very specific and not all home-based businesses qualify. Know how to determine if you are eligible to claim this deduction and what specific expenses may be deducted.

•Large Sum Miscellaneous Deductions – If you claim a large amount of itemized deductions or miscellaneous expenses, relative to your income, the IRS could get suspicious. Be specific and label every deduction.

5. Keep Business and Personal Expenses Separate–The IRS scrutinizes personal expenses that may have been claimed as a business expense, such as the use of a business vehicle, for personal use. Maintain separate bank and credit card accounts for your business and personal use. Be diligent about keeping good records.

For additional information on these tax tips and current year tax deductions visit the SBA Small Business Tax Guide (http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-busin...) or contact the IRS at www.irs.gov.

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How to survive Christmas when relationships fail

For some, Christmas is quite simply, the most wonderful time of the year. For those experiencing relationship breakdown or considering ending their relationship it can be the worst time of all.

Being faced with the thought of being cooped up at home for days with your partner when things are difficult or facing the first Christmas Day without your children can be enough to drive anyone off the edge. There are a number of things that you can do however to ease both of you, and the children through the festive minefield:

• Children The children shouldn't be put in the middle of your family dispute at any time of the year, but especially not at Christmas. If you are already separated and have not already agreed when each of you will have the children over Christmas, start discussing it as soon as possible. The court will list hearings at short notice if you cannot agree Christmas contact, but it is no good calling a solicitor on Christmas Eve. Try to make your plans as child-focused as possible and put them first – not your own feelings. For example consider helping the children to make a card for your ex or buying a present with them so that they have something lovely to open on Christmas morning – however difficult it is for you.

• If you are still together Be as civil as possible to each other, especially if you are still living together. Remember that your children will always think of Christmastime fondly and you don't want to tarnish their memories by fighting over the sprouts. Enjoy the children's infectious enthusiasm as much as you can and join in the fun with them.

•If you are separated It is very hard to not be with your children at Christmas. Many parents feel very lonely, especially for the first year. Plan what you are going to do with the children when they are with you, whenever this is. If they are not with you on the big day itself, plan to celebrate again the next day so that the children have two Christmases (who wouldn't want two?) If possible, agree with your ex a story about how Father Christmas will get their presents to both houses so you don't get awkward questions. Once again, be civil to each other; if there is one time to be pleasant on handover of the children, it is at Christmas time.

•After Christmas If it all goes wrong over Christmas, whether you are already separated or decide that you want to be, consult a solicitor. Resolution lawyers are all trained to deal with family disputes in a constructive way and not to put children in the middle.

Source: mumsnet.com

ADVICE COLUMN

BY DIVINE DIVA

Unhappy couple can't agree on best way to break up

Dear Divine:

My wife of 10 years, "Michelle," and I argue constantly. We can't seem to agree on anything, have few common interests and don't enjoy our time together. Our love life is nonexistent.

We have gone to three marriage counselors and it hasn't helped. We now "get along" by avoiding each other.

I think it's time we faced the fact that we're never going to be happy together. When I bring this up with Michelle, she gets angry and launches into the same old rage, saying if I want a divorce I'll have to get a lawyer.

Divorce will be difficult and costly enough without having to drag lawyers into it. I'd like us to agree that it's time to split and use a mediator to work out the details. It will save us a lot of money and, hopefully, make the divorce less acrimonious.

I don't understand why Michelle wants to stay together when she's so unhappy and we're unable to make things better. How can I make her see that separating -- in as kind a way as possible --will be best for us and the kids included?

-David, Mt.Vernon

Dear David:

Your wife may prefer the evils she's living with to the unknown of being a divorcee with children. However, when a marriage is over -- it's over. And when it reaches the stage that yours has, what both parties need to be most concerned about is preservation of assets, so they aren't dissipated in attorney's fees.

I have seen both kinds of divorces -- one in which the warring spouses spent so much money in litigation there was little left for each of them when it was over; and the other, in which the couple agreed their marriage was broken beyond repair and arranged their divorce with as little cost as possible. I don't have to tell you which people are doing well now. So clip this and share it with your wife.

-Always, Divine Diva

Friendship and the bitter divorce!

Q: Some of my close friends, "Tanya" and "Paul" are in the middle of a very bitter divorce. I like both of them and would like to remain friends with them-- but how can I comfort and support one of them without seeming like a traitor to the other one, and Tanya has already gotten upset with me for talking to Paul. What should I do?

A: I think you have two choices-- You can stop speaking to the both of them until the divorce is final or you can tell Tanya that you prefer to remain neutral because you care about both of them.

Please send questions and comments to Divine Diva • divinestreethype@gmail.com

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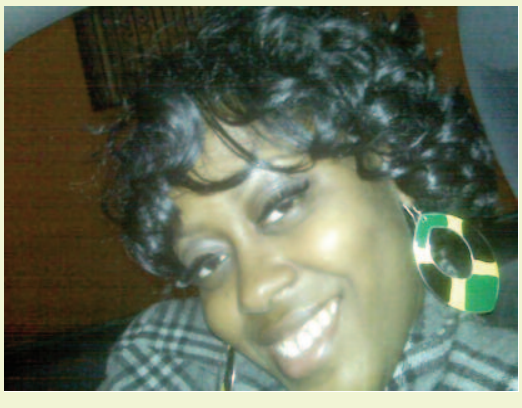

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21–Apr. 19): You should step up and use some of this amazing energy to take action, the world needs what you've got. It's a really good day for some parties, startups and other fun things that just need some initiative.

TAURUS (Apr. 20–May 20): Your laid-back nature is asserting itself with a vengeance today, so make sure that you don't have any important deadlines staring you in the face. If so, try to get extensions -- or assistance!

GEMINI (May 21–Jun. 20): Try to push things forward today. Your fire can help drive this latest project even if no one else seems interested. You're sure to pick up momentum as you move forward, so keep it up.

CANCER (Jun. 21–Jul. 22): You've got a quick mind, so use this spark to generate hot ideas or impress others with your witty repartee. It's meant to work to your advantage, so don't be shy about using it.

LEO (Jul. 23–Aug. 22): You can have fun doing almost anything so get out there and go wild! Your fiery energy is perfect for parties, but it's just as nice at home doing the dishes. Make it a holiday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Try not to give in to too many requests. You've only got so much to give, and it's inevitable that you'll be stretched too thin if you aren't firm early on. Practice saying 'no' early and often.

LIBRA (Sept. 23– Oct.22): You're at your best in one-on-one situations, so make sure that you're stepping up and taking care of your most important people. That goes beyond family and romance, of course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): You may not feel that the timing is right but it is. It's a great day to start on almost anything, from a new exercise regimen to a new startup. You should begin to see results pretty quickly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec.21): A romantic entanglement gets a little nuttier, so have fun with it. You may find yourself increasingly drawn to someone unusual or falling in deeper with your long-term partner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19): Genealogy holds special interest for you now, and you may find that it's easier than you thought to dig up even ancient material. Someone may have already done the work for you, so pay it forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20– Feb. 18): You're feeling pretty out-there today far more so than usual. One particularly crazy idea might just be the next big thing, so don't be shy about following it up wherever it may lead.

PISCES (Feb. 19–Mar. 20): You feel utterly lost today but sometimes that can be okay. If you feel trapped, try to get help but if not, just explore and see what you learn. This could be the start of something big.

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HEALTH & NUTRITION

Soda Habit Boosts Women's Cancer Risk

Older women who drink lots of soda and other sugary beverages may be at higher risk for endometrial cancer, a new study suggests.

Endometrial cancer involves tumors in the lining of the uterus, and typically affects women in their 60s or 70s, according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI).

In the new NCI-funded study, researchers looked at data from more than 23,000 postmenopausal women in Iowa who were followed from 1986 to 2010.

They found that those who drank the largest amounts of sugar-sweetened beverages had a 78 percent higher risk for a tumor known as estrogen-dependent Type I endometrial cancer.

The more sugar-sweetened beverages a woman drank, the greater her risk, according to the study published online Nov. 22 in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention.

There was no link between endometrial cancers and consumption of sugar-free soft drinks, sweets/baked goods and starch.

In a journal news release, study author Maki Inoue-Choi said she wasn't surprised that increased intake of sugary drinks was tied to this estrogen-linked cancer.

"Other studies have shown increasing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages has paralleled the increase in obesity," explained Inoue-Choi, who was a research associate at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health when the study was conducted.

"Obese women tend to have higher levels of estrogens and insulin than women of normal weight, [and] increased levels of estrogens and insulin are established risk factors for endometrial cancer."

Inoue-Choi is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the NCI and the U.S. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

A group representing the beverage industry took issue with the findings.

In a statement from the American Beverage Association, Dr. Richard Adamson, former director of the NCI's Division of Cancer Etiology and now a consultant to the group, said that, "this study does not show that sugar-sweetened beverage consumption causes endometrial cancer."

Adamson said that, "in fact, its findings conflict with the results of several other published studies that showed no association between consumption of sugar and risk for endometrial cancer."

He also stressed that the study only showed an association between sweetened beverage intake and endometrial cancer risk, and it could not show cause-and-effect. And he noted that people in the upper one-fifth of sweetened beverage intake had levels ranging from 1.7 to 60.5 servings per week.

That is "the difference between 1 can and more than three 12-packs a week [in 8-ounce servings]," Adamson said. " This is a very broad range."

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By
GLORIA BENT, MS, RD, CDN
Nutritionist
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BUSINESS NETWORK:
Owner/Broker of Extreme Realty Advance Marcia Campbell (6th l) raps with members of the Bronx business community at a prechristmas business network party held on Friday (November 13) in the Bronx. Also in photo (standing) are Michael Joseph, Kathryn Thompson, Henry Lindo, Edwin Senbergs, Fred Campbell, Bernadette Bucknor, Winsome Messam, Sarah Pichardo, Carol Folds and (kneeling) Larry Stokes, Salvison Dickson, Seymour Hylton, Dennis Blagrove and Earnest Watson The following White Plains Road community merchants contributed to the party: Good Dine Restaurant, Island Breeze Restaurant, Papa Johns, Lovette's Restaurant, Dumpling Shop, Champion Bakery, Bronx Uptown Sea Food Restaurant, Rocatone Inc Restaurant, Top Choice Restaurant, Gold Star Restaurant, H.I.M. Ital Health Food Market, Pioneer Supermarket, Young Fruit and Vegetables, K&C Fruits and Vegetables and Lash Restaurant. *-Photo/Maitland*

Tips for Protecting Your Personal Information from Scammers

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently issued the following consumer alert to urge New Yorkers to protect themselves against identity theft during the busy holiday shopping season when that risk is especially high:

1. Safeguard Your Personal Information, Online and Off. Install a firewall and virus protection on your home computer to prevent hackers from obtaining personal identification and financial data from your hard drive or when you're using the internet. Never send sensitive personal information, like credit card numbers, via email. Do not give out personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call or are absolutely certain with whom you are speaking.

2. Keep a Close Eye on Your Card at the Store. When you're using a debit credit card at a store, keep a constant eye on your card and who is handling it. Be aware of "swipe and theft" scams using card skimmers. A skimmer is a machine that records the information from the magnetic stripe on a credit card to be downloaded onto a personal computer later.

3. Don't Get Hooked by 'Phishing' Scams Online. Make sure that you are actually on the website you wish to be on – some online "phishers" create bogus sites that mimic real ones in order to capture shoppers' personal information. · When using email, be cautious about clicking on hyperlinks or attachments on unsolicited messages. Even emails that appear to be from familiar and trusted sources can be fraudulent.

4. Regularly Check Your Statements and Credit Reports. You should regularly check your bank and credit card statements for suspicious charges. (You can also have your bank or credit card company set up automatic email alerts for large or suspicious purchases.). You are entitled to a free credit report from each of the major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, TransUnion) annually, so request one free report every four months and check it carefully for signs of suspicious activity. You can request the reports online at www.annualcreditreport.com. Checking your credit report will not affect your credit rating.

5. **Report Lost Cards or Suspicious Charges Immediately.** If you realize you've lost your credit or debit card, report it immediately to avoid fraudulent charges. If you're too late and become the victim of identity theft, report any suspicious activity and unauthorized charges immediately to all of your creditors, as well as the credit bureaus, and file a report with your local police. You can have the three credit bureaus place a 90-day fraud alert in your file so that you will be notified if somebody is reviewing your file.

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GROOVIN' IN THE PARK GETS CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Sponsors and Groovin' In The Park executives at a private reception held recently at the Door Restaurant, Queens. In photo (l-r) Ron Roach (Chase), Shelton Rose (Grace Foods USA), Christopher Roberts (Groovin' In The Park Concert Inc.), Patrick Dixon (Coca-Cola Enterprises), Patrice Thompson (TD Bank), Wayne Miller (Grace Foods USA), Garfield Comrie (Western Union) and Clement Hume (Groovin' Inc.) In a strategic move to thank existing sponsors and entice new ones to the table for their June 2014 event, Groovin' executives outlined plans for the 2014 festival. Roberts cited reasons ranging from an impressive A list rooster of reggae & R&B acts, growing crowds, to mainstream and ethnic exposure as reasons why the festival has turned into a fully fledged marketing opportunity for sponsors.

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Please Note: Must be 18 years & older to participate. All taxes are the responsibility of the winners. Employees of Caribbean Link are not eligible to participate in this program. Air travel is restricted based on availability of seats & will be booked via Caribbean Link USA. Offer valid while stocks last.

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THE PEANUT PUNCH IN IT TO WIN IT PROMOTION HAS BEEN EXTENEDED TO JANUARY 20TH. GRAND DRAW IS JANUARY 25TH, 2014

LOCATION ADDRESSES

Island Taste Cuisine
4643 White Plains Rd
Bronx, NY 10470

Dumplin Shop
1530 East 22nd St
Bronx, NY

Golden Krust
Co-Op City Blvd
Bronx, NY

Country Thyme Restaurant
1455 E 22nd St
Bronx, NY

Island Choiz
1792 Utica Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Faye & Wings Restaurant
1417 Flatbush Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Brucees Patties
9509 Church Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11212

Golden Krust
1511 Fulton St
Brooklyn, NY

Jamaican Pride Restaurant
731 Flatbush Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Caribbean Vibes Restaurant
1436 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Golden Krust
1621 Mermaid Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11224

JJ's Restaurant
711 Flatbush Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Oval Sports Bar
4201 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY

Jose's Grocery
202 Mother-Gaston Blvd
Brooklyn, NY

Tasty Delicious
1096 Rutland Rd
Brooklyn, NY

Golden Krust
1848 East New York Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Isaac's Restaurant
1060 Rutland Rd
Brooklyn, NY

Mike's Grill
326 East 98th St
Brooklyn, NY

Golden Krust
1293 Fulton St
Brookly, NY

Silver Krust
9001 Avenue A
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Silver Krust
5223 Avenue D
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Silver Krust
747 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Silver Krust
1695 President St
Brooklyn, NY 11213

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1430 Rockaway Pkwy
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Tru-Flavaz Restaurant
1249 Utica Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Golden Krust
8719 Avenue D
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Good Hope Restaurant
1683 Flatbush Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Footprints Café
5814 Clarendon Rd
Brooklyn, NY 11203

I Land Fish & Grill
7911 Flatlands Ave
Brooklyn, NY 1236

De Islands Restaurant
8203 Flatlands Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Original Soldiers
1444 Fulton St
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Dougie's Jamaican Cuisine
9604 Avenue L
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Yard Style Jamaican
Restaurant
104-20 Flatlands Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Golden Krust
2124 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Angel Flake Restaurant
2114 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Golden Krust
872 Utica Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Smally WI Food Market
9419 Avenue L
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Bamboo Garden Restaurant
9501 Avenue L
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Island Grove Restaurant
5600 Clarendon Rd
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Bloomfield, CT

Kingston Kafe
730 Bernum Cut-Off
Stratford, CT

Mama Winnies
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Bridgeport, CT

Howell's Restaurant
1880 Main St
Bridgeport, CT

Dunn's River Restaurant
2018 Main St
Hartford, CT

Golden Krust
92-21 Parsons Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11432

Tenth Ave Restaurant
429 10th Ave
Patterson, NJ 07504

Golden Krust
432 10th Ave
Paterson, NJ 07514

People's Choice Restaurant
63 Central Ave
East Orange, NJ 07018

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500 Hamilton St
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Queens, NY 10271

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Patmar Bake Shop
205-07 Linden Blvd
St Albans, Queens, NY

Golden Krust
218-73 Hempstead Ave
Queens Village, Queens, NY

Merritta's Restaurant
223-15 Linden Blvd
Cambria Heights, Queens, NY

Henrica's Restaurant
138-89 Francis Lewis Blvd
Rosedale, Queens, NY

Merrick Farms Supermarket
234-21 Merrick Blvd
Rosedale, Queens, NY

B & R Spice Restaurant
111-06 Farmers Blvd
St Albans, Queens, NY

Jamaican Style
261 Beach 20th St
Far Rockaway, Queens, NY

Johnny's Classic Cuisine
713 Beach 20Th St
Far Rockaway, Queens, NY

Patmar Bake Shop
223-10 South Conduit Ave
Springfield, Queens, NY

Caribbean Flavors
212-25 Jamaica Ave
Queens, NY

Silverspoon Restaurant
207-12 Hollis Ave
Queens Village, Queens, NY

Country Taste Restaurant
145-94 Guy Brewer Blvd
Springfield Gardens,
Queens NY

Rockaway Roti Shop
122-21 Rockaway Blvd
Queens, NY 11420

A & R Restaurant
138-30A Farmers Blvd
Queens, NY

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